

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



April 1993

Volume 6, Number 3

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

Worlds of Words Exhibit Comes to B.C.

An international exhibit of 50 current and historical literacy posters from around the world will take place at the Surrey Public Library, Guildford branch, from May 19 to June 4, 1993.

The exhibit, "Worlds of Words," is a project of the Unesco Institute for Education and Ernst Klett Verlag fur Wissen und Bildung, a German educational publisher. UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has been involved in literacy work since its foundation in 1946.

The exhibit opened in Germany in November, 1992 and has since been shown around the world. In Canada, the exhibit will have been shown in Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and finally, in Surrey, this spring.

The B.C. venue of the exhibit at the Guildford library will be co-sponsored with the Invergarry Learning Centre (an adult program of the Surrey School District).

A special exhibit opening celebration, to which the public is invited, is planned for May 20 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Watch for more details on this event in the May 1993 *ALCC Newsletter*.)

A 130-page four-language catalogue containing explanatory texts and colour reproductions of all 50 posters will be for sale (price to be confirmed) at the exhibit.

The 50 posters in the display are from Russia, India, Australia, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Britain, and the United States, among other countries. They have been selected from the Unesco Institute for Education's permanent collection (located in Hamburg, Germany) of over 1000 literacy posters. All have been used in various literacy programs and campaigns. Originally, the posters hung on the walls of town halls in villages, or were displayed in public places and at the workplace, "in order to motivate adults to learn to read, and to combat the fear and prejudice associated with illiteracy."

According to Unesco, "People who have grown up in an oral environment have problems finding their way in a written environment. A poster is a medium that calls attention to this issue, and promotes measures to overcome illiteracy. The visual image is its universal language, which is nonetheless influenced by different cultural traditions."

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Workplace Pilots Symposium

Representatives from three of B.C.'s pilot workplace literacy programs will be panelists at a day-long literacy symposium sponsored by the Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) in Vancouver on May 12, 1993.

Keith Gray, Vice-President, Government Relations and Educational Services, BCBC, says the session — called "Emerging Issues and Successes" — is "targeted to both the business and labour communities, and will also be of interest to the adult basic education field."

Morning and afternoon panel discussions are scheduled, as well as keynote addresses by federal and provincial representatives.

Participants in the morning panel, "Literacy, Discrimination and Human Rights," represent the educational, legal, business and native communities. They are:

Emery Dosdall
Superintendent
Langley School District

Bruce Grist, LL.B.
Labour Department
Russell & DuMoulin

Stu Noble
Vice-President, Human Resources
Pacific Press Ltd.

Patrick Kelly
Executive Director
Canadian Council for Native Business

The afternoon panel, "Implementation: Pilot Projects and Successes," will focus on B.C. workplace projects which took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Vancouver), Freybe Sausage Ltd. (Vancouver), and in Houston, B.C.

The Houston project was a workplace initiative (involving two northern mills and a mine) in which the BCBC participated, along with other agencies such as the College of New Caledonia; local, provincial and federal governments; and the Houston community itself.

While the names of representatives from these projects are not yet available, Gray says the panel will include a spokesperson from management and from labour for each project.

The symposium will also feature an industry case study at Motorola Canada Ltd.

Other speakers at the event are: the Honourable Gerry Weiner, Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, on the need for a literate workforce; and Shirley Robertson, Director of Programs, B.C. and Yukon Region, Employment and Immigration Canada, on the changing needs of employers and business.

The lunch address will be given by the Honourable Tom Perry, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. Brigid Hayes, Program Consultant, National Literacy Secretariat, will provide an overview of workplace projects in Canada.

The symposium will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver from 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

To register, contact:

Keith Gray
Business Council of B.C.
Suite 810
1050 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3S7
Phone: 684-3384
Fax: 684-7957 ☐

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



Victoria's "Writes of Spring"

Fourteen Canadian poets will gather to celebrate literacy at a benefit performance billed as "The Writes of Spring" at Victoria's Newcombe Theatre on April 23, 1993.

This year, the Victoria READ Society's second annual "Poetry Bash for Literacy" will feature an evening of dramatic readings and song by poets such as Susan Musgrave, P.K. Page, Marilyn

Bowering, Bill Bissett, and Hank Bill, a former READ Society literacy student.

Master of ceremonies for the evening will be novelist and literacy advocate, Stephen Reid. Reid is the author of *Jackrabbit Parole*, a semi-autobiographical tale of the life of a bank robber and his escape from prison.

Proceeds from the benefit go to the READ Society's Bursary Fund, which subsidizes tuition for children to attend READ classes. The Victoria READ Society, a not-for-profit

organization which operates on a fee-for-service basis, teaches reading, writing and math skills to both children and adults.

Tickets are \$15.00 (or \$10.00 for seniors, students and the unemployed). They are available in Victoria from Munro's Books, Hawthorne Books or:

Victoria READ Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-7225
Fax: 386-8330 ☐

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Alberta Association for Adult Literacy has issued a call for proposals for its 1993 annual conference — called "Literacy: Voices and Visions" — to be held in Edmonton November 18-20, 1993.

Anyone interested in adult literacy is invited to submit a proposal designed around one of four strands:

- ❖ front-line strategies (hands-on, practical applications)
- ❖ background research (theory that guides literacy planning)
- ❖ planning for empowerment (dealing with political structures that support or impede)
- ❖ literacy and life (individuals and communities: meeting literacy challenges)

Participants may present a workshop, symposium, session or panel, within one of these strands.

Proposals must be postmarked no later than April 30, 1993.

For more information, contact:

Sheilagh McBride
Chairperson, Program Committee
Literacy: Voices and Visions
Alberta Vocational College
10215 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1L6
Phone: (403) 427-5516
Fax: (403) 427-5465 ☐

The Correctional Education Association (Region VI) has issued a call for papers for a conference to be held October 3 - 6, 1993 in Whistler, B.C. on, "New Directions in Prison Education."

Papers on topics related to adult basic education are welcome.

Send proposals for workshops or paper presentations in abstracts of up to 300 words by April 30 to:

Stephen Duguid
Institute for the Humanities
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 1S6
Fax: 291-5788 ☐

Summer Workplace Literacy in Montreal

B.C. literacy practitioners are invited to attend a summer institute — described as "a national work session" on workforce literacy — in Montreal, June 27 - 30, 1993.

The event, called "Workplace Education: Developing a Vision," will bring together 20 participants from across Canada to share their expertise on current workforce literacy initiatives and activities. The institute is jointly sponsored by ABC Canada and The Centre for Literacy in Montreal.

ABC Canada is a national non-profit charitable foundation which promotes awareness of literacy issues within the Canadian private sector. It established a national workplace advisory service from its Toronto office in June, 1992, which provides free telephone advice, information and guidance on workplace literacy issues.

The Centre for Literacy, at Dawson College in Montreal, is a resource centre and teacher training project that supports and promotes the advancement of literacy in the schools, the workplace and the community.

The goal of the summer institute is to "develop

workforce education (literacy) activities that incorporate principles of good practice, using the skills and expertise of participants."

Participants will be qualified for the institute if they are:

- ❖ in a position to influence thinking and practice on workforce literacy — in government, education, community-based organizations, labour or business
- ❖ responsible for coordinating, implementing or supervising workplace literacy basic skills or upgrading
- ❖ able to facilitate small group sessions in [their] own area of expertise
- ❖ willing to complete a project of [their] choice following the institute and to share the results

The institute will be conducted by: Sue Folinsbee, workplace consultant, who is responsible for ABC Canada's Workplace Literacy Advisory Service, and Linda Shohet, Centre for Literacy Director.

The deadline for registration is May 1, 1993.

To apply, contact:

Sue Folinsbee
Workplace Literacy Consultant
ABC Canada
1450 Don Mills Road
Don Mills, Ontario
M3B 2X7
Phone: (416) 442-2292
Fax: (416) 442-2293 □

A Passage from Burnt Islands

A co-production of the National Film Board of Canada/Studio B, and Alan Handel Productions Inc. (1992). (Video; 48 minutes)

This documentary film tells the story of how parents in Burnt Islands, a small and isolated fishing village on Newfoundland's south coast, became active participants in the education of their children. In the words of one parent, they became able "to do things for our kids we never thought were possible."

Before Ray Bown came to Burnt Islands as the new principal of the local elementary school, the school was described as one of the worst in Newfoundland. Many students could hardly read and stood little chance of completing high school. Most had parents who could barely read and write, and who were facing the loss of their way of life as the supply of fish on which they depended for their livelihood became depleted.

Hired to run a school in which "everybody had given up," Bown made a promise to the parents in Burnt Islands that their children would learn to read. The film tells of the innovations implemented by Bown to improve the children's reading skills and enhance their self-esteem. The film shows how the parents became important in the life of the school by participating in activities such as raising funds to purchase books and equipment; volunteering in the

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"Passage" from page 4

classroom; and sharing in an exchange of letters with their children.

A Passage from Burnt Islands was written and directed by Alan Handel and narrated by Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent.

A copy of the video is available on loan from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Copies of the videocassette can be purchased from:

National Film Board of Canada
Film and Video Library
Suite 100 - 1045 Howe Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2B1
Phone: 666-0716
Fax: 666-4647

Cost: \$30.73, including all taxes plus shipping and handling. Order No. C9191089. ☐

Registration for the 1993 Provincial Learners' Conference has been extended to April 19, 1993.

"Stepping out Together: Building a Circle of Caring" will be held June 15-18, 1993 at Cultus Lake Park, B.C.

Return application forms to:

Literacy B.C.
Suite 1128
510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Phone: 687-5077
Fax: 687-5076 ☐

The Stay-in-School Initiative

Over 180 initiatives have been introduced by B.C. school districts during the past three years to encourage and assist young people, who may be at risk of dropping out, to stay in school.

The Stay-in-School Initiative in B.C. is the result of a partnership between Employment and Immigration Canada (EIC) and the Ministry of Education and Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism and Human Rights. With approximately 30% of Canadian students leaving school before they graduate, EIC has committed \$296 million over five years to fund stay-in-school programs in Canadian schools.

A recently-published booklet, *The Top Ten: A Brief Look at Successes in British Columbia*, reviews the philosophy and objectives behind stay-in-school programs in the "Top Ten" school districts in B.C. The "Top Ten" were selected by EIC and the Ministry of Education as the most successful in implementing stay-in school programs which have been effective in: developing community-based partnerships; providing positive role models in the community and in the schools; and in

improving student retention rates. Some of the "Top Ten" school districts have reduced the dropout rate among students by as much as 50%.

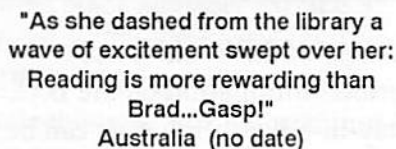
The types of stay-in-school programs common in the "Top Ten" include:

- ❖ work experience and "job-shadowing" programs in which students develop a better understanding of the connection between education and the skill demands of a job;
- ❖ peer counselling, conflict resolution, and mentoring activities which promote a student's sense of belonging and self-esteem within an environment that provides individuality, caring and flexibility of programming; and
- ❖ community forum and outreach programs which build partnerships between the school and the community and raise community awareness of the problems faced by students who drop out.

A copy of the booklet and further information on the B.C. Stay-in-School Initiative can be obtained from:

Student Support Services
Ministry of Education and Ministry
Responsible for Multiculturalism and
Human Rights
Victoria, B.C.
Phone: 356-2489
Fax: 356-0580 ☐

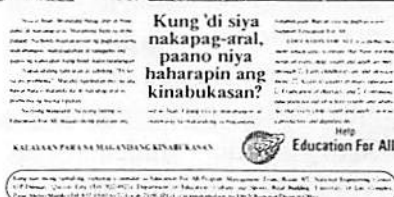
"Women and the written word. Worldwide, women represent the majority of illiterate persons: in developing countries, one woman in three (as a comparison - one man in five) does not know how to read and write."



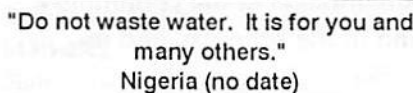
"Literacy -- more than reading and writing. Urgent topics from the environment of the learners are taken up and processed into learning posters. The aim is to transmit elementary knowledge and to promote social participation."

"The path towards light.
Symbols which repeatedly
express the hope for a better
world are the light and the sun.
The illiterate person, however,
is often shown in darkness as a
person who can hardly see."

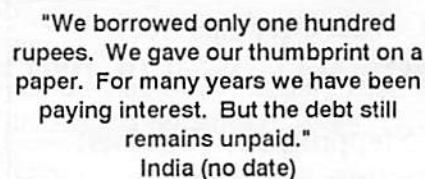
ANO ANG LABAN NIYA ?



"What chance does he have?"
Philippines (no date)



"The power of the written word -- the powerlessness of the thumb. In many countries illiterate persons use a thumbprint as signature. They agree to documents they cannot read, which often results in deception and fraud."



For further information on the B.C.
exhibit of "Worlds of Words,"
contact:

Wendy Caywood
Adult Services Librarian
Surrey Public Library
Guildford Branch
15105 - 105th Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
V3R 7G8
Phone: 588-5015